



Valles Caldera National Preserve

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

AMERICA'S MOST IMPORTANT PROGRAM TO CONSERVE
IRREPLACEABLE LANDS AND IMPROVE OUTDOOR RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE NATION

Bugling elk in the Valles Caldera National Preserve. A cutthroat trout dangling on the line in Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. The crack of a baseball bat in a public park in Albuquerque. All are iconic New Mexico scenes and all are possible because of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Despite victories like these for our neighborhoods and public lands, this federal fund is now in a battle for survival.

Founded in 1964, LWCF has been one of the most successful and popular programs in conservation history. This program comes at no cost to taxpayers as funds are provided from royalties on offshore oil and gas leaseings. Funds from the program support state and federal projects which can include everything from city park maintenance to federal land acquisition to restoration projects.

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument



At its inception, LWCF was authorized for a fifty year time period. In 2015, when that time period was up, the fund was given a three-year extension. In 2018, we find ourselves battling for reauthorization again. These short-term reauthorizations were never the intention and we now often see unnecessary political battles when these extensions are up. To make matters worse, in January 2018, the Trump administration proposed an almost 90 percent cut to the program.

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation calls on our elected officials to permanently reauthorize this fund and allocate the full funding to the program that was intended when the fund was established. Too often, this fund gets raided for other projects - diverting money that could be going to important recreation and conservation projects. Fully reauthorizing LWCF and making sure funds don't get diverted would go a long way in supporting our public lands and conservation projects across the country.

LWCF provides important conservation dollars every year to every state. In New Mexico, the program has made public land in Rio Grande del Norte more accessible and helped make the Valles Caldera National Preserve into a public property. Funds have also gone to maintenance projects at Tingley Beach - an important outdoor area for Albuquerque residents, the state's largest city. Without LWCF, parks throughout our state would have less funding and fewer residents would have the opportunity to enjoy nature right in the heart of their communities.

The Forest Legacy Program is also a crucial initiative funded by LWCF. The program helps protect working forests, supports timber jobs and sustainable forest operations, works to enhance wildlife habitat and water quality, and improves recreation opportunities. Here in New Mexico, the Forest Legacy Program has resulted in a \$12.5 million investment in our forests.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers program has helped protect iconic waterways in New Mexico. LWCF funding has protected the Rio Grande and Taos Gorge by preventing development along the canyon, further protecting our precious water resources. This program has also helped to increase recreational access along the Rio Chama and Rio Grande.

These are just a few of the more than 1,000 projects LWCF has made possible in New Mexico alone since its inception, bringing nearly \$312 million to our state.

Racecourse stretch of Rio Grande



For public land users, LWCF is especially beloved as it helps correct the widespread issue of “checkerboarded” land. This happens when public land is surrounded by land owned by private entities, making inaccessible the public land that should be open to all. LWCF resources are used to provide access to these areas and give willing private landowners the opportunity to sell or swap their land with the goal of making more public land accessible.

President Trump’s proposed 2019 budget provides no funds for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or U.S. Forest Service to purchase additional lands for conservation or recreation. With recreation a huge part of New Mexico and the country’s economy, curtailing recreation opportunities could seriously damage a growing sector of our economy. Land purchases - that benefit both private landowners and public land users - could sit in limbo for years leading to lost opportunities for public access to our lands and waters.



Valles Caldera National Preserve

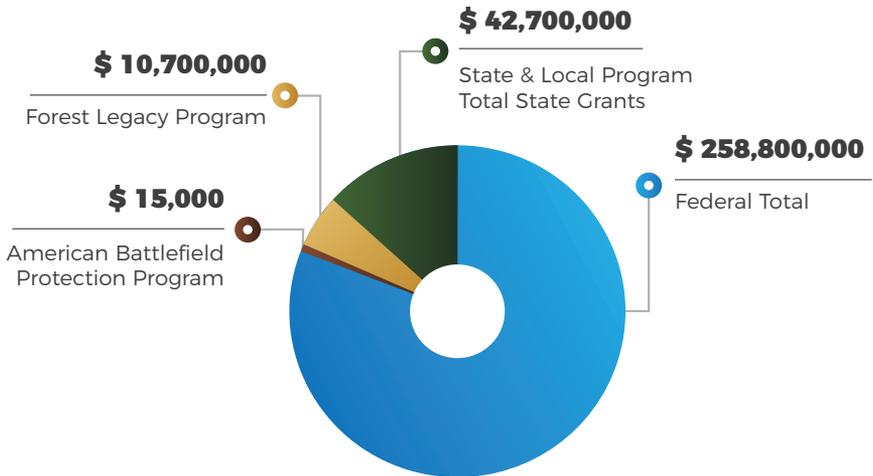
Outdoor recreation is a big part of New Mexico's economy:

- Contributes **\$9.9 billion** annually in consumer spending
- Supports **99,000** jobs which generates **\$2.8 billion** in wages and salaries
- Produces **\$623 million** annually in state and local tax revenue
- **947,000 people** participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New Mexico each year

(source: Outdoor Industry Association)

INVESTMENT IN NEW MEXICO

Total \$312,215,000



Some New Mexico places that have benefitted from LWCF:

- Elephant Butte Lake State Park: Sierra
- City of Rocks State Park: Grant
- Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River
- Adams Baseball Park: Dona Ana County
- Silver City Neighborhood Parks
- Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
- The Gila National Forest
- Rio Grande del Norte National Monument
- Aztec Ruins National Monument
- Bandelier National Monument
- Chaco Culture National Historic Park
- El Malpais National Monument
- Organ Mountains
- Pecos National Historic Park
- Petroglyphs National Monument
- Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River
- Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
- Santa Fe Watershed Protection
- Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Some national places that have benefitted from LWCF:

- Everglades National Park
- Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
- Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
- Painted Desert in Petrified Forest National Park
- Continental Divide Trail
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Great Sand Dunes National Park
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Mojave National Preserve
- Padre Island National Seashore

Bandelier National Monument

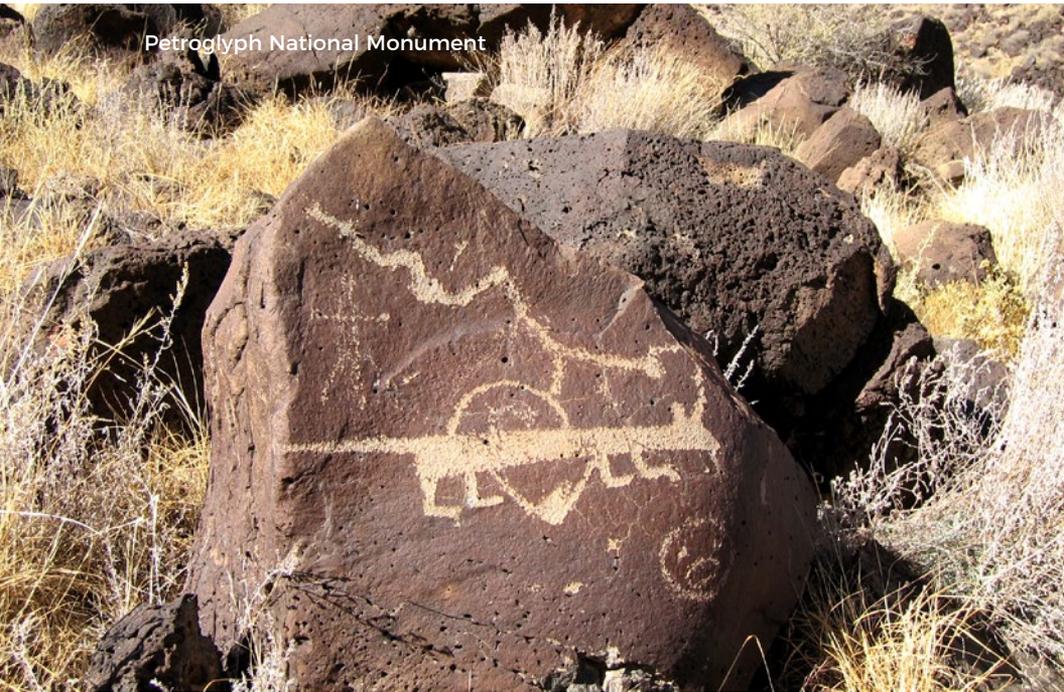


NEW MEXICO PROJECT EXAMPLES

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

Petroglyph National Monument is a shining example of the Land and Water Conservation Fund protecting a unique cultural resource supported by the local community. Located in Albuquerque, this area is home to thousands of petroglyphs left by Native inhabitants on a unique volcanic escarpment geological feature. Development and vandalism threatened to destroy the pictures that contain a crucial link to our past, so in the 1980s the community organized to protect this special area. The Land and Water Conservation Fund matched money raised by the city to complete the purchase of the volcanos and surrounding land - protecting petroglyphs for generations to come.

Petroglyph National Monument



VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

In 2015, after years of advocacy, the Valles Caldera joined the National Park Service (NPS) family. This was made possible thanks to - you guessed it - funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LWCF funds made the purchase of the land for \$101 million possible, purchasing the land from a private landowner and making the unique landscape open to all. Now, thousands of visitors each year visit to hike, hunt, camp, and birdwatch.



Tingley Recreation Area

TINGLEY RECREATION AREA

The Tingley Recreation Area in Albuquerque, New Mexico provides multiple options for city residents to get outside and come together as a community. From baseball fields to fishing ponds to hiking and biking trails along the Rio Grande, it's the backyard of many Burquenos. Thanks to funding from LWCF, the complex added Tingley field, football lights, and completed maintenance projects at the recreation area over the years. Thanks to these development projects made possible by LWCF, Tingley is a safe, welcoming outdoor area in the heart of New Mexico's largest city.

MESILLA VALLEY BOSQUE STATE PARK

Located on the Rio Grande near Las Cruces - New Mexico's third largest city - Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park gives visitors amazing opportunities to connect with nature on guided trails and view wildlife. In 2005, funds from LWCF helped purchase the last 13 acres to complete the first phase of development for the park. Thanks to LWCF, southern New Mexico residents and visitors have a gorgeous state park right in their backyard.

Rio Grande del Norte National Monument



Simply put, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is an incredibly important tool in the conservation toolbox that needs to be fully reauthorized. We are at a pivotal moment for our land and waterways. Join the New Mexico Wildlife Federation in calling on our elected officials to permanently reauthorize the fund so future generations can enjoy the beautiful landscapes we enjoy today.



For more information visit these websites:

www.nmwildlife.org

www.lwcfcoalition.com